

MEDIA RELEASE

**Attention: News Director
For Immediate Release
November 17, 2006**



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
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Western District of Kentucky**

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**FORMER CITY OF PROVIDENCE POLICE OFFICER SENTENCED
TO PROBATION FOR EMBEZZLING \$10,000 FROM CITY**

David L. Huber, United States Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky, announced today that **ERIC SMITH**, age 32, of Princeton, Kentucky, in Webster County, **was sentenced** in United States District Court, Owensboro, Kentucky, for embezzling \$10,000 from the City of Providence and laundering those funds.

Joseph H. McKinley, Jr., Judge, United States District Court, Owensboro, Kentucky, sentenced **Smith** to 3 years probation. In addition, **Smith** was ordered to pay \$4,350 in restitution.

Smith previously pled guilty and admitted that in October 2003, then Providence City Clerk Sara Stevens purchased a Dodge Durango for **Smith**, purportedly using her own money. At the time, **Smith** was a Providence police officer. Later that year, the City discovered that the Durango was purchased using \$10,000 of City funds, and the City demanded repayment. In January 2004, Stevens gave **Smith** \$10,000 cash. **Smith** admitted that he knew the cash belonged to the City and that he was merely using the City's money to repay the City, but he nonetheless took the \$10,000 cash and deposited it into his bank account. The City subsequently cashed a \$10,000 check from **Smith**.

Smith's co-defendant, Sara Stevens, was found guilty on November 14, 2006, by a federal jury of embezzling over \$900,000 in city funds between January 2001 and April 2004, and for

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money laundering. Stevens is scheduled to be sentenced on February 13, 2007. As part of his guilty plea, **Smith** agreed to testify truthfully at Stevens' trial.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney David Weiser, and it was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Kentucky Office of the Auditor of Public Accounts, and the Kentucky Attorney General's Office.

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